and Kashmir. The bus has facilitated interaction among divided families on both sides of the Line of Control by enabling them to cross over and meet their relatives across the Line of Control. The bus also carries the message of friendship and brotherhood and the need to transcend borders for the sake of our people's prosperity and well-being.

The total number of persons who have crossed this bridge in bus till 6th July, 2006, is 468 Indian nationals and 632 Pakistani nationals.

Illegal Farming of Opium

†*56. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to an intelligence report, in order to overcome their funds crisis the maoists of West Bengal are abetting farmers of Bankura and West Midnapur districts to grow opium;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued any directions to the State Government to curb illegal farming of opium;

(c) whether it is also a fact that smuggling of opium is taking place through Nepal border, and

(d) if so, step taken by Government to curb the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) No such report has been received by the Government.

(c) Available reports received by the Government do not indicate such a phenomenon.

(d) The Government has taken a number of steps to check smuggling/ trafficking of narcoties drugs within the country as well as across the borders. These include:—

(1) Strict surveillance and enforcement at important and export points, land borders, airports, foreign post offices etc.

(2) Intensive preventive and interdiction efforts along known drug routes.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(3) Improved coordination between the various drug law enforcement agencies in order to impart greater cohesion to interdiction.

(4) Intelligence sharing through coordination meetings of multi-disciplinary enforcement agencies under various foras like LIA meeting (SSB is the lead intelligence agency for Nepal border), Subsidiary Multi Agency Coordination (SMAC) meetings, Regional Economic Intelligence Meetings (REIM) and Central Economic Intelligence Meetings (CEIM).

(5) Strengthening of international liaison to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of operational intelligence.

(6) I ncreased international cooperation for exchange of information and investigative assistance in administering control over the movement of precursor chemicals.

(7) Building of an electronic data base of offenders.

(8) Conducting training programmes for law enforcement officials for upgrading their skills to combat drug trafficking.

(9) Implementing a scheme of monetary rewards to informants and officers for providing information leading to seizures of Narcotics drugs.

Custodial Deaths

*57. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the number of deaths in police custody which occurred in different States during the last three years;

(b) the State-wise details regarding the number of those police personnel who were responsible for these deaths and have been punished; and

(c) the details of measures taken by Government to check deaths in in police custody?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The number of deaths in police